

HR118

Testimony

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE INTERSECTION OF MANAGERS DRIVE AND HIAPO STREET IN WAIPAHU AND RECOMMEND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THIS INTERSECTION AND THE SURROUNDING SURFACE STREETS.

1 WHEREAS, an intersection is a location where two or more
2 roads join or cross one another, which creates a planned point
3 of conflict in the roadway system with different crossing and
4 entering movements by both drivers and pedestrians, presenting
5 one of the most complex traffic situations that motorists
6 encounter; and

7
8 WHEREAS, despite improved intersection design and more
9 sophisticated applications of traffic engineering measures,
10 statistics with regard to motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian
11 injuries and fatalities at intersections have not substantially
12 changed in over 25 years; and

13
14 WHEREAS, at the intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo
15 Street in Waipahu, nearby Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park, bus
16 stops, schools, and housing units often result in heavy
17 pedestrian and motor vehicle use, with pedestrians often
18 illegally crossing the four lane road causing a safety concern;
19 and

20
21 WHEREAS, Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park is a heavily used
22 park with a lack of sufficient, dedicated parking that has
23 resulted in nearby surface streets becoming increasingly
24 congested, particularly on weekends, adding to the traffic
25 safety concerns of the area; and

26
27 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 162, Regular Session of 2011,
28 urged the Department of Transportation Services of the City and



County of Honolulu to install a four-way stop at the intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo Street; and

WHEREAS, according to the City and County of Honolulu, studies done of the intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo Street indicated that a four-way traffic stop at that location was not warranted; and

WHEREAS, there are traffic control alternatives to signalization at intersections including two-way stop control (with or without flashing beacons), all-way stop control (with or without flashing beacons), roundabouts, bulb out, speed bumps, and tabletops; and

WHEREAS, since pedestrian safety is of the utmost importance, particularly for our keiki and kupuna, any feasible measure to ensure pedestrian safety should be considered; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, that the Department of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu, is urged to conduct a study of the intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo Street in Waipahu to determine any measures that can be taken to improve traffic and pedestrian safety at this intersection and the surrounding surface streets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this study include:

- (1) A review of the use of Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park, including when the park is most heavily used as well as parking issues at the park; and
- (2) Alternative traffic safety or traffic calming measures that can be used to improve traffic and pedestrian safety; and

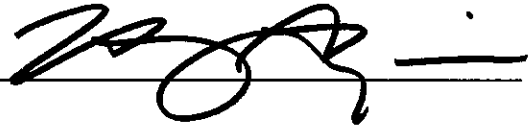


H.R. NO. 118

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
2 Transportation Services submit a report of its findings and
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening on
5 the regular session of 2016; and

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of
9 Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu and
10 the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the
11 City and County of Honolulu.
12
13
14

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. A. ...", written over a horizontal line.

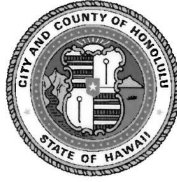
MAR 13 2015



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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March 24, 2015

The Honorable J.C. Aquino, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 309
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Support Testimony for House Resolution No. 118, Relating to
the Intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo Street

The Department of Transportation Services is in support of increasing pedestrian safety throughout the island, including the intersection of Managers Drive and Hiapo Street and is already in the midst of conducting a study at this intersection.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Resolution No. 118.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Formby", is written over a horizontal line.

 Michael D. Formby
Director

Before I begin my testimony, I would like to thank Representative Henry Aquino and acknowledge his commitment to finding a solution to the issue described in House Resolution 118. Additionally, I would like to thank the House Transportation Committee for allowing me to testify in support of HR 118.

- My name is Blaine Tsugawa; I am an 11-year resident of Waipahu and live in the Renaissance Community. I am here today as both a Waipahu resident as well as President of the Renaissance Homeowners Community Association.
- The Renaissance community was built in 2004-05, consists of 230 homes with young families, and is located makai of the H-1 Freeway.
- The subject intersection of Hiapo Street and Managers Drive is bounded by:
 - Managers Drive which runs Mauka to Makai; Hiapo Street runs Ewa to Diamond Head.
 - The Renaissance Community encompasses the western half, and
 - the Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park and a residential area comprise the eastern half.
- Managers Drive is one of the major transit routes for vehicular traffic between Waipio, Waikele, and Waipahu.
- There are two entrances to the Renaissance community at Hahana and Hiapo Streets; both exit onto Managers Drive on the Ewa side.
 - The Hiapo Street exit is the major entrance/exit point for our residents and where the majority of accidents have occurred; I am not aware of any fatalities to date.
 - Two factors contributing to accidents are :
 - Tree branches which obscure makai-bound traffic on Managers Drive.
 - With growth, tree branches lower and hangover the roadway to obstruct the line-of-sight which requires vehicles exiting the community to creep into the south-bound traffic lanes.
 - We recently requested the City increase the frequency and decrease the interval for tree maintenance along Managers Drive.
 - In addition to trees, both the increase in overall traffic and the downslope grade of the roadway contribute to higher speeds on Managers Drive.
 - Increased police patrols will help but actual speed metering or monitoring should also be performed to validate resident observations.
 - On the Diamond Head side of Managers Drive, intersection design deficiencies also exist. Due to obstructed line-of-sight, drivers proceed half a vehicle beyond the stop line as they prepare to either transit or turn at the intersection.
 - On the Makua side, there is a 6-foot residential concrete wall and on the makai side is the park's perimeter chain-link fencing.

Over the years, there have been significant community dynamics and changes since this intersection was originally planned and constructed.

- In the past 10 years, the following has changed:
 - 4 new Bus stops along Managers Drive—two each Mauka and Makai directions
 - Opening of Malakeke Street, a cut-thru from Managers Drive to Waipahu Street, has resulted in increased traffic as well as speeding.

- Increased use of the Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park
 - majority of patrons are children, youth/teens, and parents
 - basketball courts are continually crowded-weekdays as well as weekends
 - organized baseball and pee wee football practices
 - new upgraded playground later this year will draw more children
- School bus drop-off on Managers Drive—at least 2 dozen children at this location
- No designated vehicle parking spaces along Managers Drive to accommodate users. The shortage of parking results in some illegal parking along the streets as well as overflow parking into the Renaissance Community.
- Business park development—between the FilCom Center (corner of Waipahu Street and Managers Drive) up to the Fujii Film facility.
 - Frito-Lays has built and operates a production and distribution center
 - Tesla-electric car has opened its sole Service Center
 - Leeward YMCA is located at the Old Waipahu Sugar Mill site and
 - a multi store strip mall sits on the corner of Malakeke Street and Managers Drive.
- Future changes—
 - Additional business openings/development in the Ewa-side Business Park where numerous vacant lots still exist.
 - Transit Oriented Development along Farrington Highway, and
 - Most significant, more and larger housing developments in West Oahu, i.e., Koa Ridge and Ho'opili which will lead to increased traffic transiting this intersection.

In 2011, HR 162 requested the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Transportation Services to consider a 4-way traffic stop for the Hiapo Street-Managers Drive intersection. The study concluded a 4-way stop was not warranted. More importantly, the study DID NOT consider nor address any traffic control alternatives. A possible good fit for this intersection is a roundabout which requires slower vehicle speeds in order to navigate from all directions. As my testimony summarizes, NO solutions have been forthcoming which address the persistent safety and traffic concerns for this intersection, surrounding communities, and Waipahu, in general.

In closing, the Renaissance Community, the Waipahu residents who transit this area, and all users of the Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park request passage of HR118 which HOPEFULLY will begin the process and ultimately lead to SOMETHING being done.

That concludes my testimony, I am prepared to answer any questions which you may have. Thank you.